

Vol. II.

We may make this general remark as to the events of the two last months, that we experienced almost daily alternate joy and grief; grief, in beholding several who came to us, confessed their sins, asked advice, and gave good hopes of their conversion, and then plunged again into sin and wickedness. For the devil

Journal of Congress.

Senate, Jan. 10.

The Secretary of the Treasury, by letter, gave information, that the fund of the Marine Hospitals was more than equal to meet the demands upon it.

House, Jan 6-10.

Among the petitions presented were one by Mr. Mills, from Massachusetts, against opening the Post Offices and carrying the Mails on the Sabbath.

Mr. Ingham, the chairman of the post office committee, rose, and after having deprecated the suspicion of meaning the slightest disrespect to the petitioner or petitioners, expressed his hope that in consideration of the solemn decision which after a long and laborious debate, the house had come to in the last session, not to comply with a multitude of petitions to a similar object—and in consideration also, of a decision in the same spirit during the present session, the honorable gentleman would decline putting this petition upon the post office committee.

Mr. Mills urged the propriety of giving the petitioner fair play, that it did not certainly follow, that because the petitions were rejected last session, they might not be complied with on this.

Mr. Ingham hoped, that at all events it would be referred to a select committee, and not the post office committee, which was agreed to.

Bounty Lands.

Contrary to a report of a Committee on the subject, the House, after discussion, voted, that it was expedient to amend the law on the subject of Bounty Lands, so as to authorize a devise of them.

Conduct of the U. S. Bank.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of the Directors of the U. S. Bank respecting an imputed evasion of the law respecting the specie payment of the second instalment, reported a statement of facts, and recommended the dismissal of the subject.

[The facts on the subject are contained in a letter to the Committee from the Hon. James Lloyd, one of the Bank Directors then in Washington, and from whom information had been requested. Mr. Lloyd stated, that the Resolution of the Bank which had given rise to inquiry, was adopted to insure, as in his opinion it would insure, the payment of the specie proportion of the second instalment to a greater extent than would otherwise have been made, and of course, forbidding the supposition that the Bank had done any thing to permit the evasion or postponement of the second specie payment.]

Reduction of the Army.

Mr. Cannon laid on the table the following resolution:—

Resolved, That it is expedient to reduce the army of the United States.

The Claims' Law, &c.

After debate, the bill to amend the act to make payment for lost property, &c. was so amended (81 to 69) that the 9th section of the law should not be construed to extend to houses occupied by the military forces of the United States, except the same shall have been occupied by authority of an officer or agent of the United States, as a place of deposit for munitions of war.

On motion of Mr. Atherton the bill was amended to provide, that in all cases where the claim exceeded the amount of 200 dollars, the testimony should be taken before a commission for that purpose appointed.

After several unsuccessful attempts by Messrs. Wright, McLean and Pickens to amend the bill, it was read a third time and passed.

THE RECORDER.

BOSTON:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1817.

Compensation Law.

On Wednesday last, this subject was again brought before Congress. After three or four hours debate before the house in committee of the whole, the question was put on filling the blank (for the future daily compensation of the members) with nine dollars, & negatived.

The question was then taken on filling the blank with eight dollars, & negatived: 60 to 98.

The question was then taken on filling the blank with six dollars (the old compensation) and decided in the affirmative—84 to 74.

So it was determined by the committee (subject to the revision of the House) that the compensation be reduced to its old rate of six dollars per day.

An amendment was then moved, requiring that there shall be deducted from the amount received by each member during the past and present sessions of Congress, all the amount over and above what he would have received under the old compensation of 6 dollars per day. Before this question was decided, the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

Loss of the U. S. brig Chippewa.—We are sorry to announce the loss of the above vessel, which was cast away on the 12th of December, at half past 7, P. M. on the northwest point of the Grand Caicos island. The Chippewa was bound from Boston to the Gulf of Mexico, on a cruise, and her loss was occasioned by running upon a reef not described in the charts. The officers and crew were all saved; they landed upon the island, whence they proceeded to Turks island, and chartered the schooner Tryall, of North-Carolina, to bring them home, and arrived at New-York, the 16th inst. in 15 days passage. Part of the sails and rigging of the Chippewa were saved.

A British ship from Portland, for Jamaica, laden with lumber, was cast away at the same place, and totally lost, crew saved. An American schooner was also driven ashore at the same time, but had been given off.—*Mer. Ad.*

Sudden Death.—We have just seen a letter from Philadelphia, in the postscript of which, written just as the mail was closing, are these words: "Mr. Dallas died this morning." No particulars have come to hand.—*Ev. Post.*

Fire in New-York.—On Wednesday night last about 11 o'clock, a fire broke out in the loft of the Brewery of T. Mounsey & Son, in Elizabeth-street, New-York. Besides the Brewery, the Melting-house, with an adjoining dwelling belonging to Andrew Morris; the Cordial Distillery of J. Dickson, and a Chocolate Manufactory of F. Shouard, were also laid in ashes.

Deaf and Dumb.—It has been ascertained that there are 47 persons of this description in the city of New-York, 54 of whom are between the ages of 6 and 18. A committee appointed to inquire into the subject, have recommended that a Deaf and Dumb Institution be immediately established in the city of N. York.

Funeral of Dr. DWIGHT.

The Rev. President DWIGHT, whose death we announced in our list, was in the 65th year of his age and in the 22d of his Presidency.—His funeral was attended on Tuesday last. The order of Procecion was as follows:—

Bearers. CORPSE. Pall Bearers, Relatives. Trustees of the College. Faculty of the Academic and Med. Colleges. Clergy. Citizens.

Mint of the United States.

The Director of the Mint of the United States has reported that during the year 1816, there were struck at the mint the following coins.

Silver, half dollars,	47,150	
quarter dollars,	20,003	\$28,575 75
Copper, cents,	2,820,982	28,209 82
		\$56,785 57

A new brick building has been erected for the accommodation of the mint, and a steam engine has been substituted for the horse-power heretofore employed.

The ordinary expenses of the mint, during the same year were as follows:—
Salaries of officers and clerks 9,600 00
Wages of laborers 3,11 08
Incidental & contingent expenses 3,930 92
\$18,442 00

Ramsey's History of the U. S.

Mr. Carey, of Philadelphia, has in press the history of the United States, by Dr. DAVID RAMSEY, late of Charleston, (S. C.) This work will be published in a few days.

We understand that the Governor and Council have appointed Thursday 13th Feb. next, for the execution of Henry Phillips, under sentence of death, for the murder of Gaspar Dengie.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

Of China.

Rome, Oct. 12.—Two men in holy orders have arrived here from Canton, and give the particulars of the death of the Emperor of China, Kien Long, by his body guards, headed by a woman, on the 3d Sept. 1815. The conspiracy is stated to have originated in consequence of the persecution of the Christians in his dominions, by the Emperor. We know not what confidence is to be placed in these narratives.

From France.

Paris papers have been received in Charleston, S. C. to the 16th November.—Provisions were very high in France; the mob had broken open the stores at Paimbœuf, and distributed a quantity of grain; and several persons concerned in the riot had been apprehended, and among them a Police Officer. The harvest had failed throughout France, and the most serious apprehensions were entertained. Rice was 12 dollars per hundred in Paris; and from eight to nine in Nantes.

Paris, Nov. 21.—The meeting which took place near London (3 miles) for the purpose of petitioning the Prince Regent on the subject of the scarcity of corn, broke up without deciding upon any thing. After separating, gangs of them took various directions, and broke the windows of the baker's and butchers, from which they took all the bread and meat they could find. Several houses were assailed, particularly that of the *Morning Chronicle*. In this affair, the mob have evinced a disposition truly characteristic of revolutionary demagogues and levellers.

From Spanish America.

New-York, Jan. 14.—By the arrival, this morning, of the schooner Felicity, Capt. Smart, in twenty days from St. Thomas we learn, that Com. Bryan, having under his command one brig and two schooners, with Gen. Bolivar and his troops on board, sailed for Cumana, about the 4th of December. It was expected, that Gen. Bolivar, on his arrival on the Maine, would be appointed Commander in Chief of the Patriot forces. An intelligent Spanish gentleman who had just arrived at St. Thomas from a visit to the Maine, stated that Mr. Gregor McGregor, at the head of the Patriotic troops, had recently defeated the Royalists in several engagements.

From the Mediterranean.

In the Alexander which has arrived at New-York from Gibraltar, Mr. Ogden came bearer of despatches from Com. Chauncey.

Mr. Ogden informs, that the Commodore, in the Washington, 74, with the United States, 44, Capt. Shaw, were only waiting at Gibraltar for a wind to proceed to port Mahon to be joined there by the Java, 44, Capt. Perry, the Constellation, 36, Capt. Crane, the sloops Erie, Capt. Gamble, and Ontario, Capt. Downes, the brig Sparg, Capt. Nicholson, and sch. Hornet, Lt. Claxton. Mr. Shaler, our Consul General for the Barbary States was on board the Washington.

It was the Commodore's intention to proceed to Algiers, to insist upon the ratification of the treaty with the Dey, and to blockade his ports in case of his adhering to his determination of not ratifying it without the brig of war he demanded was given to him.

It was the general opinion that the Dey would persist in his demand, which would render a reinforcement of our squadron absolutely necessary, to carry the blockade rigidly into execution.

From the moment Lord Exmouth's squadron left Algiers, the Algerines commenced repairing their fortifications under the direction of able foreign engineers, which are nearly completed, and the defects which Lord Exmouth's attack pointed out perfectly remedied. They have also erected furnaces to heat shot, so that the place is considered very strong. In fact, the Algerines already say, "Let Lord Exmouth come again if he dare!"

The Dey has purchased several vessels of war, and is actively employed in re-establishing his navy.

We also learn that the Spanish government were making great exertions to retrieve their affairs in South America, and that General O'Donnel had arrived at Port St. Marya, with a part of the troops (about 5000 men) destined to compose a strong expedition to Buenos Ayres, from which the most flattering results to the royal cause, were expected.

From the impoverished state of the Treasury, and the deficiency of military supplies, some months must probably elapse before this expedition can be fitted out.

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Treaties concluded between the United States and the following Indian tribes, have been ratified and confirmed by the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and will speedily be officially published:—

With the Weas and Kickapoos, concluded June 4th, 1816.
With the Chippewas and Pottawatamies, concluded 4th August, 1816.

With a portion of the Winnebagoes, concluded June 3d, 1816.

With the Sacs of Rock River, concluded May 13th, 1816.

With the Sioux of the Leaf, concluded June 8th, 1816.

With the Chickasaws, concluded September 20th, 1816.

With the Cherokees, concluded October 4th, 1816.

With the Choctaws, concluded October 24th, 1816.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 14.

During Robbery.—On Saturday evening between the hours of eight and nine, as Mr. Harber Badger, of Boston, was on his way from Philadelphia to Frankford, and on the eve of entering the village, (being on the race bridge so called) he was accosted by two men of genteel appearance, who demanded his money; at the same time seizing him by the shoulders. A desperate struggle ensued. Mr. Badger was armed with a brace of small pistols, one of which he drew from his pocket and discharged, but probably without effect, owing to the robbers seizing his arm at the moment. In attempting to draw the other, it was wrested from him by the robbers, and the sudden appearance of two gentlemen in a gig, occasioned the villains to desist from further violence, and make good their escape; not, however, without taking with them Mr. B's pocket book containing about \$150 in bank notes, being nearly all the money which this young stranger possessed.

True Am.

Baltimore, Jan. 11.—On the evening of the 8th inst. about 7 o'clock, a MALE INFANT, about three months old, which is believed to be the child of white parents, was found in the public street at the corner of Charles and Pratt streets. The infant was dressed with two frocks and two flannel petticoats, with two caps on its head. It is apparently in good health, and will in all probability do well. A reward of twenty dollars will be given to any person who will find out the parent monster.

A shock of an Earthquake was felt at Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the morning of the 9th inst. The motion was from east to west, accompanied with noise. The same shock was felt at Baltimore.

On the 7th inst. there was caught within 15 miles of Philadelphia a Grey Eagle. He measured from the extremity of one wing to that of the other when extended, 7 feet, 1 inch and a half.

FIRE!

Bangor, (Maine,) Jan 4.—The barn of Mr. Raymond Copland, of Dexter, was consumed by fire on Monday last, together with head of cattle, about 50 bushels of grain, and a large quantity of hay, with other property, such as farming tools, &c.

The Society of Friends have petitioned Congress for a severe law to punish the kidnapping of free blacks and selling them to slavery, which, to the disgrace of the country, has been practised by some individuals. Some States have already made laws against this land privateering.

The Legislature of New-Hampshire has passed a law for taxing the real and personal estate of Clergymen. Their clerical duties character shut against them nearly every source of wealth, expose them to peculiar expenses, and many parishes cannot afford to give them more than 200 or 300 dollars a year, yet a portion of this is to be taxed away from them, although it may lessen no other man's tax a cent.

Large Pear.—A Pear was raised this year in Virginia, which measured 14 inches in circumference, was 8 inches long, from the stem to the core, and weighed 14 lbs.

The Newburyport Herald says, "We understand a society is formed here, for the purpose of emigrating to the Western Country, and that about 70 have already joined it, the principal part of whom are Mechanics who have families, and who are of the first respectability."

The merchants, of New York, have chosen a respectable Committee to draft a Memorial to Congress on the present embarrassed state of our Commerce.

The Governor of Delaware recommends to the Legislature to petition Congress to interdict the exportation of grain and flour, in consequence of the very deficient crops.

MARRIAGES.

In North-Carolina, Dec. 18, Mr. Lewis Sawyers, sen. aged eighty, to Mrs. Hannah Poston, aged sixty, both of Tennessee. The Bride maid was one hundred years old.

In Concord, Rev. Jonathan Curtis, of Epson, to Miss Betsey Barker.

In Portsmouth, (R. I.) Richard Shearman Esq. to Miss Sarah Anthony.

In Barnstable, Mr. Ebenezer Swift, to Miss Temperance Child.

In Bridgeport, on the 6th inst. Eli Whitney, Esq. of New-Haven, to Miss Henrietta F. Edwards, youngest daughter of the Hon. Pierpont E.

In Philadelphia, by the Rev. E. L. Bascome, on the 25th ult. Mr. Elijah A. Gould, merchant of Bernardston, to Miss Sophia Earle.

In Candia, Mr. Asa Porter, to Mrs. Sarah Buswell.

In Brunswick, David Stanwood, Esq. attorney at Law, to Miss Caroline Peace Lee.

In Newton, Mr. Samuel Worcester, of Brighton, to Miss Sarah Sargent, eldest dau. of Capt. William S.

In Buxbury, Mr. Willard Martin to Miss Catharine Coolidge Cowley.

In Boston, Mr. Henry Foster, to Miss Mary Stevenson.—Mr. Charles Mountfort, to Mrs. Ann Smith.—Mr. Moses Emerson, of Madbury, to Miss Eliza K. Pike.—Mr. Alexander McGilvray to Miss Elizabeth Hayden.—Mr. Job Spencer, to Miss Betsey Frothingham.—Capt. Wm. Dunston, of N. C. to Miss Sarah Allport.

ORDAINED.

In Wendell, on the 1st inst. Rev. Harvey WILBURN. The services were as follows:—Introductory prayer by Rev. Mr. Bailey of Pelham; Sermon by Rev. Dr. Dana of Newburyport, from 1st Cor. 2. xiii. Consecrating prayer by Rev. Mr. Blagden of Greenwich; charge by Rev. Mr. Estabrooks of Athol; right hand of Fellowship, by Rev. Mr. Gates of Montague, and concluding prayer by Rev. Mr. Harding of New Salem. Greenfield paper.

DEATHS.

In Portland, Mrs. Betsey, wife of Mr. Andrew Ross, aged 24—Miss Sarah Darling, of Gorham, aged 17.

In Winthrop, Mathew Hayward, Esq. 78. In Medfield, Ezekiel Plimton, Esq. an officer in the revolutionary army.

In Milton, Mr. John Bent, aged 71.

In Wilmington, Samuel Hopkins, Esq. 59.

In Yarmouth, Capt. Timothy Baker, an old respectable inhabitant of that town.

In Fowal, 1st inst. the Hon. Josiah Wright, Chief Judge of Bennington County Court.—His death was occasioned by a fall from his chair, as he was proceeding to Bennington to attend the late session of that Court.

In Westford, Capt. Nathan Davis.

In Framingham, 3d inst. Mrs. Isabella Bent, aged 51, wife of Deacon Matthias Bent.

In Boxford, widow Rebecca Stiles, aged 72.—She was remarkable for her industry, having woven, upon a moderate calculation, as many yards of Cloth as will measure with the extreme part of the County of Essex.

In Newburyport, widow Hannah Bartlett, 81; Mrs. Sarah Dole, 67.

In Marblehead, Mrs. Ruth Barker, aged 99. Her husband, Capt. John Barker, was lost at sea in 1767. She was the mother of eleven children, five of whom had families. Her living descendants are 6 children, 23 grand children, and 48 great grand children, the eldest of whom is of age.

In Hingham, Elijah Lincoln, aged 87.

In Charlestown, Miss Tabitha Angier, 37.—Mr. Benjamin Wait, 35.

In Roxbury, William Brown, youngest child of Elisha Forbes, aged 7 months.

In Boston, Mr. Edward Blake, merchant, aged 46.—Mr. Abel Robinson, aged 48.—Mr. John K. Low, aged 21.—Miss Susan Gibbs, youngest daughter of the late George G. Esq. of Newport.—Mr. Asahel Goodnow, aged 70.—Mrs. Elizabeth Clouses, aged 37, wife of Mr. William C.—of an apoplexy, Capt. Joseph Low aged 51.

At Fort Warren, of Pluretick fever, Capt. Armstrong Irvine, of the United-States Regiment of Light Artillery, son of the late Brigadier General I. of Pennsylvania.

MARY S. SMITH,

No. 48, Purchase-Street, opposite Liverpool-Wharf.

RESPECTFULLY informs her friends and the public, that she has for sale, a general Assortment of English & India Goods, among which are—a few pieces of Nankin Crapes, first quality; fine Waterloo prints, 37½ cts per yard; Cambrics, Muslins, Hose, Bombazets, Flannels; British and other Shirts; Vestings, Ribbons, & a variety of other Fancy Articles.—*Cheap for Cash.* Jan. 21.

American Shirts, Cheap.

JOSIAH DOW, up stairs, Cornhill-square, has this day received one case Cotton Shirts, 25 cents per yard. Not long since the same quality was sold at 40 cents per yard. Jan. 21.

Copartnership Formed.

JOHN PRATT informs his friends and the public he has formed a connexion in business with NATHAN SAWYER, where the Book Binding business will be carried on as usual, in all its various branches at No. 4, Congress-street, opposite the Exchange-Coffee-House.

Book Binding Manufactory.

The subscribers informs their friends and the public they have taken a shop No. 4, Congress-street, opposite the Exchange-Coffee-House, where they intend carrying on the BOOK BINDING BUSINESS in all its various branches, together with making Backgammon Tables, Chess Boards, Port Folios, and putting Maps on Cloth with rollers, and all kinds of Stationary work. Account Books of all descriptions manufactured in patent or plain Binding, with or without Russia Bands, with the best materials and in a style equal to any in Boston and at the shortest notice.

N. B. Backgammon Tables, Chess Boards new covered and repaired as above. All favors gratefully acknowledged by their humble servants. PRATT & SAWYER. Jan. 21.

Prayer-Book and Episcopal Tract Society, for the Eastern Diocese.

At the annual meeting of the Prayer-book and Episcopal Tract Society, held at the County Court-House, Boston, on the 8th day of January, 1817, the following gentlemen were elected for the present year, viz.

Rev. ASA EATON, President;
ADAM BARCOCK, Esq. Vice-President;
MR. R. P. WILLIAMS, Treasurer;
MR. BENJ. B. OSGOOD, Rec. Secretary;
SHUBAEL BELL, Corresponding Secretary.

Trustees.

Mr. George Brinley, Rev. G. A. White, Mr. George Bethune, Mr. Lynde Walter, Mr. Chs. W. Greene, Mr. Charles H. Kupfer.

The Anniversary was then adjourned to meet again on Thursday, the 23d of Jan. at the Vestry of Trinity Church, at 9 o'clock, A. M. to hear and determine on Reports, and to attend Divine Service.

NOTICE.

The government and members of the above association, and the officers and members of the respective BRANCHES, are notified to attend the above mentioned adjourned meeting, to be holden at Trinity Church, on Thursday the 23d of January, at 9 o'clock, A. M. to hear and determine on various interesting reports. The Church will be opened for Divine Service at half past 10, Sermon by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of the Diocese, who will also administer the Holy Rite of Confirmation. After Service, a collection will be made in aid of the Society's funds. Punctual attendance of Members is requested, and all are invited to lend their aid to this Institution. Jan. 11. S. BELL, Cor. Sec'y.

Bishop Wilson's Works.

THE Subscriber having lent the 1st vol. of Bishop Wilson's Works, containing his Life, and not recollecting to whom he has lent it, takes this method of requesting the person who may have it in his possession to return it. JOHN CODMAN.

Dorchester, January 15, 1817.

Miscellany.

COMPENSATION LAW.

REPORT

Of the Committee appointed on the 4th Dec. to inquire into the expediency of repealing or modifying the law passed at the last session, changing the mode of compensation to the members of Congress.—December 18, 1816. Read and committed to a Committee of the whole House, on the second Monday in January.

The committee, to whom was referred the consideration of the expediency of repealing or modifying the law past at the last session, relative to the compensation of members of Congress, ask leave to REPORT....

The power, vested in Congress by the constitution, of providing for the pay of its own members, is doubtless, a delicate trust; and it might have been apprehended, as well from the nature of the subject, as from former experience, that the most judicious exercise of that trust would not be exempt from some degree of public animadversion. The committee, however, cannot perceive, either in the increase of compensation provided by the late act, or in the mode of making that compensation, cause of excitement or alarm, adequate to the effects which are understood to have been produced. The addition which this law has made to the public expenditure is not considerable: and if it had been created by other measures of government, would not, probably, of itself, have been thought worthy of great attention. And the change in the mode of compensation, even if it be not attended with real and manifest advantages, does not still appear to be wrong, so clearly, and in such dangerous measures, as to furnish grounds for any high degree of public iniquitude. The committee, therefore, cannot but be of opinion, that the law in question has not been considered without some mixture of misapprehension of its principles and objects, and that a more accurate knowledge of its provisions, and more mature reflection on its design and tendency, if they should not end in a conviction of its usefulness, would yet result in a different and far more moderate estimate of its probable evils. It would not become the committee, to claim any infallibility for the body of which they are members, nor to take it for granted, that every law which it may pass, must, necessarily, be a wise and wholesome act of legislation. Human errors and imperfections find their way into all bodies. And there is, doubtless, existing in the judgment of the community, a power under whose revision this and other acts of government must and ought to pass. If, however, on a review of this subject, the House should still be of opinion, that the law in question, or some equivalent provision, has become essentially necessary for the useful exercise of the powers of government, and for the safety, security, and honor of the people themselves, its members may still hope, that in not hastily departing from it, they will be justified by the enlightened sense and generous sentiments of the nation. The abandonment of a measure, which, according to their most conscientious conviction, is intimately connected with the general good, would be no means of obtaining favor with the American people.

If, in passing the law in question, the House of Representatives discharged any portion of its duty, it acted upon general and public principles, with an entire disregard to the convenience of its own members, any further than their convenience was supposed to be connected with the public service. It treated the question, not as one between them and the public, but as exclusively of public and national concern. It regarded it as a subject of general policy, by which the nation, and the nation only, was to be affected; as much so, as any other act of legislation whatever. Any imputation, so gross as to impeach its conduct in this essential particular, a feeling of self-respect must compel the House to pass over in silence, and its members must rely on their known character, as members of the government, and as citizens of the community, to disprove it. The House would not presume to judge whether its services, in the various and important matters upon which it has acted, have deserved any consideration or respect from the public; but for those services, such as they are, it has not sought, nor would accept any reward, which could be measured out to it in a mere pecuniary compensation. And while the members of the House would certainly not think of claiming any merit for passing the law in question, any more than for the discharge of what they do not think of seeing that they have any cause for taking humiliation upon themselves, on account of having passed an act, which they believed would be essentially useful to the country, but which they must have foreseen would be exposed itself, and might expose its authors, to misapprehension and misrepresentation of all sorts. Holding offices in the immediate gift of the people, of short duration, and at a time when the people were soon to exercise, in most districts, their ac-

customed privilege of a new election, if these offices had been objects of their regard, and if they had permitted personal considerations to influence their conduct, it is obvious, that all such considerations pointed to a course different from that which they pursued. They must have known, that no measure could be more easily misconstrued and perverted to the purposes of obloquy and reproach. The committee cannot yet believe that a faithful discharge of duty, in the face of these probable consequences, is to be reckoned among dangerous political errors.

At the commencement of this government, it was of course among its first measures to fix, by law, agreeably to the requisition of the constitution, the pay of members of Congress. In the old Congress under the confederation, the members were paid not out of the national treasury, but by the States which they represented. The rates of compensation were different in different States: some States paid to its delegates eight dollars a day; others six; others less; and one State at least paid them by an annual provision, of six hundred pounds sterling. It was natural to recur to these precedents, when the subject was taken up by the first Congress, under this constitution. Taking as a just and obvious standard by which to regulate the amount of compensation, the average of the rates which had been paid by the different States, to their delegates in the old Congress, it was found that such average, amounted to somewhat more than six dollars a day. The compensation was accordingly fixed at six dollars a day, by the law of 1789.

As it was foreseen, that the depreciation of money, or the increased expense of living might render this provision inadequate, the law was limited in its duration, in order that it might be considered and altered, if necessary, at a future period. The subject was again brought before Congress, in 1796, by the expiration of the former law. On this occasion, as the committee have learned, and indeed as some of them remember, there was much diversity of opinion in the House of Representatives; some members wished, then to change the mode from a daily sum to an annual allowance; others preferred to retain the existing mode, but to increase the sum; and a committee of the House, reported in favor of increasing the daily pay to eight dollars, assigning for reason, a proportionate increase in the price of all commodities, and the expense of living, since the passage of the first act. Those who opposed this augmentation, admitted it would be reasonable, if the price of commodities and the expense of living should keep up; but they hoped the rise would be temporary, and that money would soon resume, in relation to the expense of living, its former value. The proposition to increase the pay was lost by one or two votes only, and a law passed establishing the former rate.

The state of things existing in the government and in the country, from 1796, to the close of the late war, furnish obvious reasons to account for the circumstance, that during that period, no attempt was made to raise the pay of members of Congress. In the mean time, the seat of government had been transferred to the City of Washington, and the expense of living, instead of returning to its former rate as was expected by some, has gone on increasing progressively, until money, in relation to the means of life, does not retain more than half its former value. In other words, if six dollars a day was no more than a reasonable provision, in the cities of Philadelphia, and New-York, eight-and-twenty years ago, twelve dollars would not be more than a reasonable and equal provision in the City of Washington, at the present time. Forty years ago, as has been stated above, some of the States paid their delegates in Congress, eight dollars a day; and yet it never was supposed, during the revolution or afterwards, that the people of the United States had made unreasonable or exorbitant provision for their public agents. But unless the early history of the country, was marked by great extravagance in this particular, the rate of six dollars a day, fixed by the law of the first Congress, was no more than a moderate and necessary allowance at that time, because it was no more than the average of what all the States had found it necessary to pay to their respective delegates, during the revolution.

The only question then, is, whether there has been in truth such a change in the country, in the value of money and the expense of living, as to render that provision which was no more than sufficient in 1789, insufficient in 1816. It is a truth, plain to all whose experience or information enables them to judge, that so great has been the change in the foregoing particulars, which eight-and-twenty years have produced, that it is not incorrect to estimate the expenditures necessarily attached to a seat in Congress at twice their former amount. This change has not been confined to the condition of members of Congress. It has extended all over the country, and as well the national government as every State government has been obliged to provide for it in a proportionate increase in the salaries of their public officers.

The statute book of this government exhibits a constant and progressive increase of compensation in all the departments of government, with the exception of the legislature and the supreme judiciary. On the recommendation of the executive or its branches, the legislature has repeatedly augmented the provisions for that department, patiently raising the pay of clerks and of writers far above that of its own members, without agitating either itself or the country with any question about its own compensation. From the heads of departments to the lowest clerkships in the public offices, a general augmentation has obtained throughout. A long enumeration of instances is not necessary. One may suffice. When members of Congress were first paid six dollars a day, the salary of the attorney-general was fifteen hundred dollars a year. This salary has since been increased to three thousand dollars; and the executive has, at the present session, found it necessary to recommend a still further increase, as essential to the public service. If the duties of that officer have increased, so have the duties of members of Congress in at least an equal proportion; and which of the two stations requires the greatest sacrifice of private pursuits may be easily discerned.

At the time of passing the late act, it was found upon inquiry that, from the organization of the government to the commencement of the thirteenth Congress, (1813) Congress had, on an average of all the years, been in session one hundred and fifty-nine days in a year. For eight years, ending with the thirteenth Congress, (1813) it had been in session, on an average, one hundred and sixty-five days in each year. An easy computation will show that supposing Congress to sit hereafter as many days within the year as it has usually done heretofore, the present amount of compensation, including travel and attendance, will exceed the amount received for travel and attendance under the former law, thirty-eight per centum. After the lapse of eight-and-twenty years then, Congress has, for the first time, increased the pay of its members. It has increased it about one third, and no more; although, within the same period, it has been called upon to raise, and has raised, the compensation of nearly all other officers of government in a far greater proportion.

It is enhancement of other compensations is not adverted to for the purpose of showing that Congress has been as favorable to others as to itself, or that it has made itself the latest object of its own bounty. In neither case has it supposed itself to be bestowing bounty or conferring favor. It has sought only to make such provisions as the public interest demanded. But the circumstance is referred to as furnishing evidence of the necessity of the late law, by showing that a similar necessity had been found to exist in other cases; and that by that law, Congress had done nothing for its own members which executive recommendation, and its own opinion of propriety, with the general concurrence of public sentiment, had not compelled it to do at an earlier period, and in ample measure, for other officers of government.

The State legislatures, from the same necessity of complying with the change of circumstances, have made corresponding changes in the salaries of the officers of their governments; and it may not be inapplicable to recent occurrences to remark, that the members of these legislatures have, in almost every State, increased, in many doubled, in some trebled, their own pay, during the period in which the compensation to members of Congress has remained at its original rate. As far also, as the committee can learn, this increase of pay to members of State legislatures has, in every instance, taken place in the same session in which it was voted.

Objections have been made to the manner of compensation introduced by the law of the last session. It has been said to have created salaries. If, by this, it is intended that the law allows to every member a defined and certain sum, without any deduction for absence or omission of duty, it is not a correct representation. Such deductions are provided for by the law, as completely as under the former mode. It has already been observed, that a difference of opinion has long existed on this point; and it still exists. When the law of 1796 was passed, there were those who thought it advisable to change the mode then in practice, and to adopt the example, of an annual allowance, which had been formerly set by a very respectable State. There have been, and still are, those who are not without fear, that an augmentation of the daily pay, if it should not in fact tend, in some cases, to the protraction of the session, might produce an evil of equal magnitude, by subjecting the Legislature to such an imputation.

Nor is it at all true, that the inconvenience of attending a session of Congress is always in proportion to its length. The season of the year in which the session is held, may be as material as its duration. The length of the journey to the seat of government is the same in both cases; and both cases require an entire breaking off of all private engagements, and an exclusive de-

vision to public business. It may be added, also, that while compensation was computed by the day, as the sessions would naturally be longest in times of war, the greatest expense would fall on the treasury, when it could bear it with the least inconvenience. Thinking, however, that the measure of augmenting the compensation was itself a necessary one, and that the form, if not the best, was a fair subject of experiment, the House did not forbear to adopt it, from difference of opinion in regard to the manner. It passed the law in its present form, in the hope that good would result from the change of mode, and with the knowledge, that if such should not be the consequence, the former mode could be easily, and at any time, again adopted.

There now remain some other topics connected with this subject, which the committee would submit to the consideration of the House.

Of all the powers with which the people have invested the government, that of legislation is undoubtedly the chief. In addition to its own important ordinary duties, the legislature is the only power which can create other powers. Departments, with all their duties and offices, with all their emoluments, can emanate from the Legislature alone. Over the most numerous branch of the Legislature, therefore, the people have retained the power of frequent elections; and with this branch alone, they have trusted the original exercise of the right of taxation. The members of the House of Representatives are the special delegates and agents of the people in this high trust. They, and they alone, proceed immediately from the suffrage of the people. They, and they alone, can touch the main spring of the public prosperity. They are elected to be the guardians of the public rights and liberties. Can the people, then, have any greater or clearer interest, than that the seats of these, their representatives, should be honorable and independent stations, in order that they may have the power of filling them with able and independent men? Is it according to the principles of our government, that the legislative office should sink, in character and importance, below any office, even the highest in the gift of the executive? Or can any thing be more unpropitious to the success of a free representative government, than that the representatives of the people should estimate any thing higher than their own seats, or should find inducements to look to any other favor than the favor of their constituents?

It would be a most unnatural state of things, in a republic, if the people should place greater reliance any where else, than in their own immediate representatives; or if, on the other hand, representatives should revolve round any other centre than the interests of their constituents. Through their representatives, the direct influence and control of the people can alone be felt. In them the rays of their power are collected; and their can be no better criterion by which to judge of the real influence of the people in the government, than by the degree of respectability and importance attached to the representative character. Evil, indeed, to the republic will that time be, should it ever arrive, when representatives in Congress, instead of being agents of the people to exercise an influence in government, shall become instruments of government to influence the people.

It is, probably, the necessary tendency of government that patronage and influence should accumulate wherever the executive power is deposited; and this accumulation may be expected to increase with the progress of the government and the increasing wealth of the nation. To guard, as far as possible, against the effect of this on the Legislature, the constitution has prohibited members of Congress from holding, while members, any office under executive appointment; but it has not restrained them from resigning their seats to accept such appointments, nor from accepting them after their term of service has expired; nor has it prohibited the grant of such offices to their relations, connexions, or dependants. There are hundreds of offices in the gift of the executive, which, as far as pecuniary emolument is concerned, are preferable to seats in Congress; indeed there are none, except of the very lowest class, which in that respect are not preferable.

Is it for the interest of the people, that their representatives should be placed in this condition? Is it expedient that better service should be commanded for any other Department than for the hall of legislation? Or, admitting that offices of high trust and responsibility in the State, such as will be commonly regarded less from motives of pecuniary emolument, than from the love of honorable distinction and devotion to the public service, should possess more attractions than the legislative office, is it still fit or expedient that subordinate places in government, such as have no recommendation but the salaries and perquisites belonging to them, should have the same influence?

And yet, not only is it well known that persons, at every election, decline being candidates for the legislature, but the government has not been without instances, in which members of either House have

relinquished their seats in the House of Representatives to accept of a very low grade. Can the people rest require the establishment of such places by the legislature? Or the value, to the people, of the representation, if they have made give which their representatives relinquish for even the smallest pointments of the executive? It cannot but tend, more, we think, to the permanent safety of the public, than no such hopes or inducements of this nature, either faithful and compliant discharge of duty, to a more indirect and less pernicious exercise of the of a public character and a public

The geographical extent of the United States furnishes a case analogous with any thing which has fore existed, either in any State or in the government of a country. There are members of Congress who reside more than a hundred miles from the seat of government. If these members are accompanied by their families, as is the case with the great majority of Congress, even the present session, with the strictest economy, not defray their expenses. Within the means provided for them must come as exiles from their homes; they must abandon all private pursuits, but the of all domestic relations, and strangers and temporary lodgers, metropolis of their own country far. It is wise in government to of those who enter its service, the deepest knowledge of our most competent to judge. In office, which will not, ordinarily, any length of time, be made, have the dearest and strongest their country, and the greatest stake in its prosperity.

One further observation is, If an adequate provision be not made for members of Congress, the fall, exclusively, into the hands of the other two departments; or either of the most influential country only, who can bear the of it without any compensation those, who would accept it, compensation legally belonging from the hope of turning it by other means. A reasonable, neither extravagant on the hand, nor parsimonious on the would seem to be the best against these various evils by these considerations, Congress at the last session, of opinion compensation to members, had inadequate. The committee the same opinion. In many was not equal to the expense by individuals in their attendance Legislature; and in all cases, presumed that the labor and bestowed on the discharge of duties, by an able and faithful of Congress, could not but be more profitable result if compensated private pursuits.

If the view which the committee taken of this subject, be not an erroneous one; if great relation to the value of money, price of living, have taken place country; if it has been found to provide for this change, of the compensation of the throughout the general and emoluments; and more than desirable to maintain the importance of the legislative to open to the people a wide selection of representatives, their command the best of their respective districts; and to retain the services of whose knowledge and experience best fitted them to promote interests and maintain their the object of the law in question only a useful, but a highly and commendable object.

In regard to the mode of ing that object, it has not been not easy to reconcile opinions whole, the committee are of that under all the circumstances, adisable to provide, that the of pay should be made in the addition to the former daily They, therefore, recommend lieu of all other compensation paid to members of Congress gates of territories. dollars for every day for their actual travel to and from the seat ment. And they report a purpose.

THE RECORD

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY

NATHANIEL WILSON

No. 3, Suffolk-Buildings, CORNHILL, BOSTON.

Price Three Dollars a Year

Letters on the subject of the Postmasters are particularly given notice of all papers which are taken from their offices.